

4. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system according to claim 3, further comprising a patient circuit coupled to the external coupling, wherein the patient circuit is adapted to communicate the flow of breathing gas created by the pressure generating element to an airway of a patient.

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A pressure support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein during normal operation of the pressure support system, the valve is downstream of the pressure generating element.

7. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the second housing members includes a port defined therein for venting gas discharged by the valve from the valve chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system according to claim 1, wherein the first and second plurality of cavities further define a third chamber and a second conduit operatively connecting the third chamber to the first chamber or the second chamber, and wherein the pressure support system further comprises:

a flow element disposed in the third chamber, and

a pair of flow measurement ports defined through the first housing member or the second housing member on opposite sides of the flow element to enable a pressure differential between the pressure on each side of the flow element to be measured.

9. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 1, further comprising a gasket disposed between the first and second housing members.

10. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 1, wherein the fastening assembly includes a plurality of screws adapted to fix the first and second housing members in the assembled relation.

11. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 1, wherein the first housing member includes a mounting structure adapted to receive a control circuit thereon in a fixed relation.

12. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 1, wherein the first housing member defines a base portion of a housing for the pressure support system

13. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 12, wherein the first housing member includes:

a first side and a second side, with the first plurality of cavities being defined in the first side of the first housing member;

a blower inlet port adapted to communicate a flow of gas from the second side to the first side of the first housing member;

a plurality of walls extending from the second side of the first housing member, wherein the plurality of walls define:

an inlet vent disposed on the second side adapted to receive gas from ambient atmosphere, and

a tortuous path from the inlet vent to the blower inlet port to deliver gas from ambient atmosphere received by the inlet vent to the blower inlet port.

14. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 13, wherein the first housing member includes a port defined therein for venting gas from the conduit to the tortuous path.

Claims 15-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Original) A pressure support system according to claim 1, further comprising a pressure pick-off port defined in one of the first housing member and the second housing member so as to communicate an interior of the first chamber, the second chamber, or the first conduit with a pressure sensor.

21. (Currently Amended) A pressure support system comprising:

(a) a first housing member a first side and a second side and a first plurality of cavities defined in the first side, the first housing member also having a blower inlet port defined therethrough to communicate a flow of gas from the second side to the first side and a plurality of walls extending from the second side, wherein the plurality of walls define:

(1) an inlet vent disposed on the second side adapted to receive gas from ambient atmosphere, and

(2) a tortuous path from the inlet vent to the blower inlet port to deliver gas from ambient atmosphere received by the inlet vent to the blower inlet port;

(b) a second housing member having a second plurality of cavities defined therein, wherein the first and second plurality of cavities have complimentary configurations such that a cavity from the first plurality of cavities mates with a corresponding cavity from the second plurality of cavities ~~cooperate~~ to define (a) a first chamber adapted to receive a first component of the pressure support system, (b) a second chamber adapted to receive a second component of the pressure support system, and (c) a first conduit operatively connecting the first component and the second in fluid communication responsive to the first and the second housing members being in an assembled relation; and

(c) a fastening system that secures the first and second housing members in the assembled relation.